

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff,

v.

12 BLANCA MEDINA,

13 Defendant.

CASE NO. CR20-0092-JCC-18

ORDER

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15 This matter comes before the Court on the Government's unopposed motion to seal an
16 exhibit to its sentencing memorandum (Dkt. No. 853).

17 The First Amendment protects the public's right of access to criminal trials. *See, e.g.,*
18 *Globe Newspaper Co. v. Super. Ct. for Norfolk Cnty.*, 457 U.S. 596, 606 (1982). The public also
19 has a common law right to inspect and copy public records, including those from judicial
20 proceedings. *See Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978). But these rights are not
21 absolute. They must yield when (1) sealing a document serves a compelling interest, (2) that is
22 substantially likely to be harmed if the document is not sealed, and (3) there are no less
23 restrictive alternatives for protecting the interest. *See United States v. Doe*, 870 F.3d 991, 998
24 (9th Cir. 2017).

25 Because the exhibit contains highly sensitive information, sealing it serves a compelling
26 interest that is substantially likely to be harmed if it is not sealed, and no less restrictive

1 alternatives would protect the interest. Accordingly, the Court finds good cause to seal the
2 exhibit. The Government's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 853) is GRANTED. The Clerk is
3 DIRECTED to maintain under seal Docket Number 854.

4 DATED this 26th day of August 2022.

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John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE